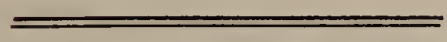


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C.P.

Weobley Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1947



Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Clerks	...	...	<div><div>MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT (resigned on 18th January, 1947)</div><div>MISS S. DENSHAM (appointed on 17th February, 1947)</div></div>
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	<div>EVAN LEWIS, C.R. San. I., Cert. Meat Inspector. Retired on 30th October, 1947. T. S. WATTS, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E. Commenced duty on 1st Nov., 1947 (Telephone: Weobley 216)</div>

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.
Telephone: Leominster 95.

To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1947. As this will be my last report to you and also the last full year of work of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Evan Lewis, I should like to draw your attention to his long and loyal service to the Council and to say how much I have appreciated his excellent work.

With the appointment of a whole-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, it will now be possible to proceed with the housing survey, at a rate more in keeping with the needs of the population.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to the Council for their courteous and friendly attitude during my ten years of office.

H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,727
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to the Rate Books								1,728
Rateable Values	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,645
Sum represented by a Penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£81 10 11

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	20.8
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	14.8
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	11.4
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	22.6
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths during 1947 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.			

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947:

Live Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.5
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.0
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district.

Child Welfare Centre: At Weobley, on the first Monday in each month, at 2.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The County schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E), furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER

WEOBLEY PUBLIC SUPPLY.—The supply, obtained from wells at the Hurst, Dilwyn, gravitates to an impounding chamber in the village of Weobley and is pumped to a high level water tower. The average daily flow is 18,000 gallons per day and the consumption approximately 9,000 gallons per day. The consumption of water is tending to increase and, with the completion of the building programme now in progress, the estimated consumption will be approximately 11,000 gallons daily.

Samples are taken regularly and it has been noted that unsatisfactory reports have been made after heavy rainfall. To safeguard the supply a chlorination plant is to be installed.

Twenty-six samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Twenty-three reports were satisfactory, but in two reports, streptococci were present in 10 ml., and in a third, the presence of faecal coli was detected.

OTHER AREAS.—Privately owned piped water supplies exist in the following villages: Mansel Lacy, King's Pyon (part of), Blakemere (part of), Letton (part of) and Staunton-on-Wye (stand pipe).

The Council maintains small water supplies at Birley, Mansel Gamage and Staunton-on-Wye.

Most of the houses in other parts of the area rely on shallow wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The village of Weobley is provided with a main sewer in good condition. The disposal Works are situated to the north of the village. No complaints of nuisances were received during the year, although the works are in need of modernisation and enlargement. This need will become more pressing when the new Council houses are occupied.

In Dilwyn, a length of sewer (approximately 600 feet) is maintained by the Council. This sewer is adequate for the present needs only. Further development in the village would cause overloading with consequent attendant difficulties.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No complaints have been received relating to the pollution of water courses.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collections of incombustible house refuse are made quarterly throughout the district.

The refuse is disposed of by uncontrolled tipping into old pits.

SECTION D.—SANITARY INSPECTION.

Inspection of the area is continually carried out. It is expected that the Housing Survey will be well under way in the forthcoming year.

OVERCROWDING

Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

INSPECTIONS UNDER				Number of inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing Regulations	...	...	...	90	5	—	5
Factories	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	85	—	—	—
Hop-pickers' quarters	...	...	...	24	—	—	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	18	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	92	—	—	—
Schools	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Water Supplies	...	...	...	38	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	13	—	—	—
Nuisances	...	...	...	13	—	—	—

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Written Occupiers Inspections notices prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	7 — —
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	9 — —
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	— — —
TOTAL	33	16 — —

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act, (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Cases enquired into	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Patients removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSES

Erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Made fit for habitation		...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY

WATER SUPPLY								
Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wells cleansed and repaired	...		...	...	...	...	...	—
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of water sent for analysis			...	...	...	...	...	37

HOUSE DRAINS

Laid or re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cleansed, trapped or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective waste pipes rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dumb wells rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

WATER-CLOSETS

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Repaired, ventilated, or provided with cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

PRIVIES AND ASHPITS

Additional privies and ashpits provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

SCAVENGING

Houses from which refuse has been ordered to be removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Privies ordered to be cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Portable receptacles to be cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Removals of offensive refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

In District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Meat and shops inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

On Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85

UNSOUND FOOD

Surrendered	...	48 tins Carrots, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. Rye Meal, 3 tins Pork Sausage, 2 tins Peas, 2 tins Beans, 2 tins Condensed Milk, 1 tin Pears, 2 tins Corned Beef, 66 bars Chocolate, 1 tin Fruit, 7 lbs. Ham.	
Seizures	...	680 Gallons of Milk.	

SECTION E.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	20
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	90

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	0
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—				
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Of the five cases of Scarlet Fever, one represents the last case occurring in the outbreak described in my annual report for 1946.

Of the two cases of diphtheria, one occurred in a girl, who had not been immunised. The other was a very mild case in which the carrier state persisted for many months, and was only terminated by the removal of the patient's tonsils. Presumably because he had been previously immunised, this child was not seriously ill.

The cases of poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis, one was contracted in the Home Counties, three were isolated cases in which no connection was found with any other, and in two cases, there was evidence of direct infection from the one to the other.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													TOTAL	
	0 — 1	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 6	6 — 7	7 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 30	30 — 40	Over 40	Unknown	
Measles ...	2	2	2	2	2	6	3	12	6	2	3	—	—	3	46
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	7
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Polio-encephalo- myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1947 is indicated in the table below:

Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age		Total
Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group	under 15 Number
150	26.8%	598	64.3%	748

The number of children under the age of 5 years, who have been immunised, shows a very reasonable increase over the previous year. It is hoped that the increase will be maintained, since the private practitioners now participate in the scheme.

“ LOCAL ” CHILDREN, aged 0—4 years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number immunised during year	...	—	4	74	126	54	22	30	76
Number immunised at any time	...	—	4	77	184	194	144	107	150

“ Immunised ” indicates only those children who have completed a full course of injections.

As from the 5th July, 1948, all immunisation becomes the responsibility of the Herefordshire County Council. The County Medical Officer will in future report annually on the state of immunisation of children.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1947, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 24 males and 30 females who normally reside in the district.

During the year, fifteen new cases were notified, ten on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and five because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs. During the same period, four deaths of persons suffering from the disease occurred, and three persons left the district.

CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Year				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1939	...	...	...	8	7	15
1940	...	...	...	10	9	19
1941	...	...	...	11	11	22
1942	...	...	...	11	17	28
1943	...	...	...	13	20	33
1944	...	...	...	19	19	38
1945	...	...	...	31	18	49
1946	...	...	...	29	17	46
1947	...	...	...	34	20	54

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2	2	4
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	7	5	12
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	4	6	10
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	...	...	...	14	11	25
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	4	5
Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	1	—	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diseases of the Digestive System	...	...	...	—	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	1	2
Premature birth	...	...	...	—	1	1
Violence (including Road Traffic Accidents)	...	...	...	3	—	3
All other causes	...	...	...	5	3	8